250110

Bobby Bistro

ever since i found this facebook page years ago i thought, why is it so boring. it's not so much that the people on it are stupid exactly, but maybe that they are a bit timid? risk averse? it should be fun, but it's awful. i really do think it's a missed opportunity. maybe a lot of people keeping their powder dry for undergrdaute theses? hard to say.

Montague Egg

The Prynne discussion scene is dead. (Some could argue it was never even alive to begin with.) Too many poems and not enough demand.

There simply isn't the audience for robust discussion about J. H. Prynne, or even the infrastructure to support it. But it goes deeper than this. It's the culture of New Modernism and the poets within it that have ruined the scene. It's a well-known fact that many poets are content writing ballades in their own little bubble, with complete disregard for other towns and cities throughout the UK. Many consider themselves successful having given an alarming pamphlet to 30 people at their local Prynne club. They have zero desire to make it big and are quite happy being run-of-the-mill Prynne enthusiasts because they do it "for the love of J. H. Prynne, man."

Even those who desire fame hold onto a belief that all they need to do is post in the J. H. Prynne Facebook group and Mr Prynne will magically come across them on his yearly summer holiday to spook town and feed them a bucket of amphetamines.

Either that or hope for the Fairy Godmother to perform a bit of magic of her own and turn their mediocre opinions on J. H. Prynne into a overnight international success.

When it comes to true Prynne enlightenment, people don't want it, Prynne himself doesn't chase it, and there's such an abundance of Prynne snobbery in this world that it kills any poetic spirit that dares to arise. This applies not only to Prynne himself but also to fans and students and the keepers of vicious horses.

Go to Prynne's secret underground cave and what do you find? Genuine people who crave to hear good old New Modernist poetry. They're not looking to hear the latest space-groove supposed to blow your mind and delve into the depths of your soul. They want decent poems! Why do you think all Prynnes typically come from Cambridge? It's a well known fact. But we don't often ask ourselves why. It's a cliché, but the devil tower has a reputation for a reason.

Let's just look at the poems for a moment. How many good quality poems are there in the world? Honestly, I can count about 3, one of which unfortunately burned to dust just a few weeks ago. Now think about how many poets there are. Surprisingly, there are quite a few. But these are what I would call "flaky poets." They write a handful of poems for a couple of months before they sink into the Grimpen mire, and the process starts again. The problem with this? These type of poets are getting in the way.

The J. H. Prynne scene is on its knees and has become a laughing stock. We need to learn from the horses that are considered as local powerhouses. There's a reason why poets such Candy Liverwort, Grep Cubbins and Falco have always been revered as the best in the country.

So, what's the point of this article? To simply moan about the state of affairs? No. It is a call to all followers of Prynne to make a change. We all know poetry is suffering everywhere in the world but let's not let that ruin the fantastic J. H. Prynne. It's been said many times before, but let's support J. H. Prynne and construct a 500 foot statue of him in silver right now.

35w

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Mortimer Tregennis

Montague Egg helloooo. I am jew here. I am katy teh penguin of d0000000m

35w

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Jonny Lohr

^found the Kent Johnson alt

35w

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Bobby Bisto

Author

one of the interesting things about the late period stuff is theres been no critical response. no one can get near it. i really like the justknect stuff. i met him and i asked him, are you serious about it and he sort of equivoated about it. but i like it a lot. and i like the dissensus thread, people with no poetic background at all, music people, record collector people whove never read a book before, but otherwise no one has got close to it.

35w

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Ian Davidson

Bobby Bisto I used Prynne's poetry for teaching and it was often the musicians or the visual artists or performers who got him quicker than those with a background in Lit. Ironically though he is one the most scholarly of poets, despite producing little in the way of formal critical work. The sheer volume and diversity of the later stuff is off putting for critics. Just too much work and you'd be trying to catch it (apparently) in mid-wave.

35w

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Andrew King

'It's not that you're all... stupid, exactly... it's just that I am... incredible' 🤓

35w

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Ben Watson

Haha ... I quarrelled like this with Bisto, then ... actually met up with him and discovered someone I liked a lot ... open invitation to all here to drop FB and academia - seedbed for trolls - and come read your stuff/talk about Prynne at the Betsey Trotwood on Friday lunchtimes this year ...

35w

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Andrew King

😂 fair enough. Nigerian guinness time

35w

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Bobby Bisto

Author

i dont actually remember writing this tbh it was 3am and i was clearly pissed. i think i stand by it tho.

35w

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180822

Bobby Bistro
is it true Prynne hates Finnegans Wake?
if it is true then why?
why is The Wake The Enemy?

Ben Watson
He said to me that he didn't like the way Finnegans Wake "is the only one", i.e. the only accepted huge volume of "incomprehensibility", as I understood it. However, I believe it's because he takes Wyndham Lewis's part in the dispute with Joyce (eg there's a Lewis painting titled "Timon of Athens" just before Enemy of the Stars in Blast, a text which helped form Prynne's acerbic attack, and an epigraph from Timon of Athens at the front of Or Scissel). Thing is, **Joyce** "takes Lewis's part" in the Circe chapter of Ulysses and in sections of the Wake - Prynne's words wow me, but I disagree with him on all sorts (eg his support for Systems Musics, his anti-humanism, his Maoism, his partiality for Heidegger and Olson ... and his dislike of Joyce). I'm sitting at my kitchen table writing about the cover of Or Scissel - Malevich's Black Square and "darkies ding in dewood" (FW p. 293 ... the book's VORTEX ho ho) - so I find your question encouraging (disagreeing with Prynne is almost as much fun as agreeing with him) Thanks!PS I always thought Iain Sinclair was a Lewisian eyeball rather than a Joycean ear, but he told me that he thought there was no comparison between the stature of JoThanks!

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
i had a feeling I got that impression from one of your essays and i suspected there was a lewis tie in (hence the reference to the enemy in the original post.)

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
sinclair is very, very lewisian. i was just talking about this the other day. the muscly, knotty sentences. the opening of white chappell with all those medical terms in particular. specialist vocabulary (which you also get in prynne obviously((and ballard)))

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
lewis has that section about a bulldog in the wild body that's full of technical terms.... what don't you like about olson? olson gets on my nerves, all that windy bloviating and bombast, all that gulping and grasping and swall0wing without chewing but there's times when maximus asserts itself. i was just at the top of howth looking out, at dublin and the sea, and as well as the wake i could feel maximus layering itself over the experience. quite a powerful presence.

7y

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Ben Watson
Olson can give you a big expansive feel but when Sean Bonney directed me to his writings on the American need to move westwards over the Pacific, I was chilled by the imperialist politics and later traced his space vs. time shtik to Nazi "Raumforsching": <https://archive.org/details/WhatsWrongWithSpace7-i-2004>.
What's Wrong With Space? 7-i-2004 : Ben Watson : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

7y

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Ben Watson
Actually, you might eb able to help me write about Or Scissel. Where are you based?

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
greenwich when im at home, on the riverbank between tate modern and the globe when im 'working'

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
a friend of mine wrote an essay on eye vs ear, space vs time, ondt vs gracehopper, lewis vs joyce that might be useful too. he's the person i read through maximus with actually. i think it's a good essay. not boring and academic.
http://groupnameforgrapejuice.blogspot.com/.../meereschal...

GROUPNAMEFORGRAPEJUICE.BLOGSPOT.COM
Meereschal MacMuhun Moon Child Me 3: Mosaic

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Ben Watson
Hmm. I got all McLuhaned out in my dialogues with Bob Dobbs ... Can't read his stuff any more, it's all grand assertion and no actual evidence ... People who use him seem to me to skate on the quotes from pundits and lack ... what's it called? - a bullshit detector?

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
it's more lewis and joyce (and blake) than mcluhan but ok, time is money. Bob Dobbs turns up in the comments predictably enough.

7y

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Bobby Bisto
Author
although if i wasnt sober i'd probably feel honour bound to make a spirited defence of 'bullshit' at this point. the wake is deliberately structured around 'bullshit' and generated by 'bullshit' for instance. im not ready to put the hair shirt on just yet. good luck to all the new puritans though. i can only tip my hat to the moral seriousness and asceticism.

7y

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AR Price
JHP to B.Dubourg (14.IV.75): 'In general you will see that I disapprove of Finnegans Wake exactly because there is no axiomatic base of nature, and I want natural speech in some indefinite but vital sense.'

6y

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Alexander Dickow

I don't think I understand that statement. Perhaps you have insight into what he means?

6y

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Matt Ffytche

Ok that's an interesting quote. But does anyone have an idea of what he means by 'axiomatic base of nature' and/or what it means for a work of literature to have (express?) one (the expected relationship isn't clear here - he just writes 'there is no'). And thirdly is he suggesting the language in Finnegan's wake is 'unnatural'? It's different - but unnatural?

6y

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Bobby Bisto

Author

Confusing Innit given that if there's one convention the wake cleaves to it's the spoken language albeit in a largely invented vocabulary. I have made up my own reasons for Prynne being anti wake and they're theological, to do with praise and the affirmative Joycean Yes. You don't build a cathedrel-mosque unless you're inclined to fall to your knees and clasp your hands together.

6y

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Ed Luker

there's another unfollowed thread here, which is that Prynne makes some strange claims about the elemental facets of a 'natural' language in some of the later prose texts. In a footnote in Mental Ears, Prynne says, to just give one example:
"Poetic textuality is thus a discourse of language signs founded in dispositions corresponding generically to historically current beliefs about poetry at time of origin, as distinguished from other forms of literary discourse based on reduction (transformation) of natural language into the adaptive schedules of poetic usage as variably characterized by schemes of versification, figural transformation and so on."
That inference of some 'base level', ahistorical 'natural language' is also found in the text on Peter Larkin that appeared in No Prizes 2 (2013) and also in one of the longer prose essays from the last fifteen years, where verb forms are discussed a lot. I can't remember from the top of my head so will need to dig it out.

6y

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Bobby Bisto

Author

This is stuff me and my little gang have been trying to get a grip on. We've started reading the yellow brick book from the start and you find yourself asking, for instance, what is the plain/steppe/champaign? I read the Peter Riley review of the Prynne/Olson correspondence yesterday and that asks the same questions and also touches on what we were discussing upthread, the noun/verb, shaun/shem, space/time, lewis/joyce arm wrestle, (complicated slightly by Prynne's gerund)

6y

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Ben Watson

Damn, hit <RETURN> too early. "stature of JoThanks!" should read "mighty stature of Joyce and Lewis's writing". Sorry about that.

7y

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Jakub Głuszak

cuz it suxxx

7y

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